

State-Wide Prohibition Bonds

(By Jas. G. Rice, in the Chattanooga Times.)

During the past three or four years I have been accused a number of times by various and sundry persons of exaggerating the damage that state-wide prohibition was causing to the public revenue of Tennessee. These accusations were made, however, largely by politicians who are interested in keeping the facts from the people, and by non-residents of the state.

The most violent criticism that has come my way, somewhat remarkable to relate, was from the non-resident critics. These critics, while professing much knowledge of local conditions, could not possibly have known anything definite about the merits or demerits of prohibition in Tennessee. Citizens of Kansas and Nebraska, North Carolina and West Virginia, Maine and Colorado, and a few other states, have written me letters in reply to articles bearing my name that had fallen into their hands in one way and another. The general tone of these letters led me to the conclusion that the advocacy of prohibition as a cure for the ills of society is governed by the state of mind of the advocate.

My policy has been to patiently wait for official vindication. The report of the legislative committee, appointed a few weeks ago to look into the condition of the finances of Tennessee, is ample to sustain practically every prediction I have made from time to time with reference to the condition that would be shown at the end of the Hooper regime.

The Prohibition Deficit

In no newspaper article or pamphlet have I predicted that the deficit in the revenues of the state would be more or less than a million dollars, in round numbers. How did I arrive at this conclusion? Simply by multiplying the annual loss of revenue to the treasury, through prohibition, by the number of years of the Hooper prohibition regime. It was such an easy matter to make this kind of calculation with the facts before me that I marveled that any well-informed man would seriously take issue with me on that point. The prohibition law knocked \$250,000 a year out of the state treasury. It is true that before the law was enacted that the state collected more than that amount from the liquor traffic, but after having outlawed the traffic our reformers proceeded to tax it and to collect something each year from the source. For the past four years the collections of the comptroller from the liquor traffic have fallen off about \$250,000 a year. If we multiply this sum by four, the number of years of the Hooper regime, we have a round million of loss. Therefore, I concluded long ago that at the end of the Hooper administration the deficit in the treasury would be a million dollars. The legislative investigating committee reports the deficit to be \$1,622,000, and round bonds that bonds be issued to cover it, the bonds to be known as "Hooper deficit" bonds.

The "Hooper" Bonds

In a spirit of fairness these bonds should be so labeled as to inform future generations correctly of their origin. They ought to be known as the "State-wide prohibition" bonds, which in reality they are. They will be issued to make up the deficit of the Hooper administration, and as I have already shown, the entire deficit is due to a loss of revenue from the prohibition law. If, to make it plainer, the prohibitionists, after having deposited the state treasury of the money it was getting from the liquor traffic, had increased the tax rate enough to have covered the loss, does any sane man believe that the deficit would have existed? But to have increased the tax rate would have given the lie to the campaign utterances of the reformers. They had told the people that state-wide prohibition would save more by reducing the costs of criminal prosecutions than the loss of revenue each year. That is to say, by reason of this anticipated reduction in criminal costs, there would be no use to increase the tax rate. This promised reduction in criminal costs never came. As a matter of fact, which I repeat here, the costs of criminal prosecutions last year were more than double what they were in 1902, the last year of license in Tennessee. To be exact, the state spent \$184,000 more money last year in the prosecution of criminals than was spent in 1902, when saloons were licensed and regulated by law. If there has been any reduction in the number of policemen in the cities, I have failed to find it.

The legislative investigating committee reports that for the period of four years covered by its investigation a total of \$26,000,000 was collected in taxes. Under a mandatory law, enacted a dozen years ago at the insistence of our bondholders, 11 per cent of the gross revenue of the state shall be set aside to the credit of the funding board for payment on

the bonded debt and for interest on same. This salutary law was suspended during the entire four years coming under the committee's inquiry. If the amount due under this law, and unpaid, can be called a liability, the treasury of the state owes the funding board just \$2,600,000 that ought to have been paid on the bonded debt. The point in this incident, however, is that a political regime, elected on a rigid law-enforcement platform, was the first to ignore one of the most salutary laws enacted in Tennessee in many years.

Prohibition Increases Taxes

Coming through with prohibition, Tennessee owes its bonded indebtedness increased a million dollars. It is in evidence that more taxes will be necessary, or else Governor Rye will go out of office with a larger deficit than marked the end of the Hooper regime. An effort is being made to overhaul the taxing laws of the state for the double purpose of making the tax burden more equitable and raising more revenue. One of three reforms—perhaps all of them—will be necessary to bring the revenues of the state up to its expenditures. It must be increased assessment, a higher tax rate, or new subjects for taxation, perhaps all. Tennessee, in plain terms, took that if prohibition is to prevail the money lost through the prohibition law must be made up by heavier taxes, or else the institutions of the state will suffer. The bonded debt of the state at the present time is \$11,145,000. When a million is added, under authority of the present legislature it will be \$12,145,000, and it will bear not less than 5 per cent, as against 3.75 per cent for which the refunding bonds could have been sold in 1911. For reasons which I will not undertake to state here, Governor Hooper would not permit the refunding of the debt at that time and as a result the bonds have been converted into certificates of indebtedness, some of them bearing as high an interest as 6 per cent. Refunding bonds authorized by the legislature now in session will have to bear a rate of 5 per cent, I am advised by bankers, to find purchasers. The annual interest on these bonds will total \$622,250, the heaviest drain that the people of the state have suffered since the debt was compromised thirty odd years ago.

Prohibition Push Cards

All of this has been accomplished by prohibition laws, and administration by prohibitionists. The trouble began with prohibition. No one can successfully dispute this fact. The benefits of prohibition, if there are any, must be set on the other side of the account. In my opinion, there have been no benefits, but that is a matter of opinion only. Others may see some benefit, and they are welcome to whatever consolation they find. There are thirty-nine push cards daily engaged in the business of authentic empty liquor bottles in the back alleys and on the corners of Chattanooga. I have personally interviewed nine of the autocrats behind these cards, and from what they tell me I am warranted in averaging the daily crop at 100 empties to the cart. This would make 3,600 empty liquor bottles picked up in the bounds of the city and suburbs every day. The liquor traffic has been driven into back alleys and the common corners. Since the closing of the beer saloons in Chattanooga, the business of these purveyors of empty bottles has largely increased. Like conditions prevail in every city of Tennessee.

The State Federation of Labor, more strength to its arms—is taking the legislature to authorize the manufacture and sale of pure beer of light alcoholic percentage, in the state. If such a law were enacted there would follow, in my opinion, benefit to both prosperity and temperance.

Europeans Are Book Buyers

In the United States only one person in 1,300 buys a book in the course of a year, while in Great Britain it is one in 3,800. In France it is about the same; in Germany and Japan it is rather better, and in Switzerland it is one in 871. Cheaper books, in paper covers, account for some of this difference; but, whatever the cause, it remains true that the Europeans buy twice as many books per capita as we do—Atlantic Monthly.

Birds Minus Wings and Tail

The roughest form of bird life which exists is believed to be the kiwi, or Apteryx mantelli of New Zealand. It is so scarce, however, that scientists consider themselves lucky to get a specimen in any condition. It is without wings or tail, its legs are short, but very strong, and are used for flinging.

Little Things Make Trouble

Usually little things bring the most unexpected trouble. There is nothing except air inside a rubber ball. But if you play with it too recklessly, it is more apt than anything which I know to bound back and hit yourself.—George L. Raymond.

ANKLET BOUQUET NOW

FASHION HAS TAKEN ANOTHER FORWARD STEP.

Daring Leaders of Modes Are Wearing Flowers Just Above the Shoe Tops, Instead of at Waist, as Formerly.

The Parisian creators of fashion have issued the royal edict that to be the vogue, skirts this season must be short. The shorter the more vogue to them. No doubt the fashion makers had in mind that the spaces intervening between the skirt bottoms and the shoe tops would be utilized by some creative genius in the introduction of the latest fad.

Of course there was the anklet watch and the anklet muff to fall back on, but such tame things as these could very easily be improved on by someone with imagination.

Naturally one must have a dainty ankle. Yes, indeed, a very dainty ankle, to attract the proper amount of eyes. Not then, again, like everything else, there are likes and dislikes, and the piano-bottomed ankle is just as apt to attract attention as is the one built on the lines of a Venus.

Dorothy Newell, possessing as charming a figure as one would desire, bethought herself of a daring innovation. Having the daring of her convictions, she went about executing them. If, Miss Newell figured, it be the proper thing to wear a corsage at the waist, why not use a bouquet to adorn the ankle? Having started the vogue, it caught like a house of tinder when the torch is applied to it, and now the fashions are getting real fussed up about it. Aye, they are studying the most courtly of manners in so far as the art of kneeling is concerned, if the vogue spreads as it is already doing, the cavaliers of the



Borist ships will be compelled to carry kneeling cushions about with them, as an aid toward adjusting, at the proper place, the beautiful anklet bouquet. The most attractive flowers for this purpose are the rose, sweet peas, and chrysanthemum, the last named must, however, be removed from the cabbagehead variety. That may do on the six-cylinder anklet, but for the trim ankle a dainty variety of flowers is desired.

Carpenters are busily engaged in filling orders for screens for use in the floral shops. Behind these screens the lady can in secrecy adjust the bouquet exactly where she desires.

BLACK MATERIALS IN VOGUE

Really Unlimited Possibilities in the Color, if it is Effectively and Carefully Employed.

Black is to enjoy a marked measure of vogue this season. That announcement has been made by style creators, in fashion periodicals, in the daily press. And most women have adopted it as a statement of fact, but have doubted that black could be effectively used for really dressy costumes. Somehow its past record as a "staple" has militated against a consideration as anything else. A survey of some of the afternoon and evening models fashioned from black materials will dispel any such idea. Black has unlimited possibilities.

The secret of its use—successful use—depends upon the material employed and the modeling of the garment.

The dressy black costume must be more dressy, more elaborate in modeling than the costume fashioned from colored fabric. Translated into evening frocks, black materials require the use of frills and tulle and in order to counteract the absence of color. Lace and net must be used in profusion. Satin must be employed because its surface reflects light. Jet and sequin trimming are utilized for the same reason. Even black feathers—black paradise—have a place in the development scheme of the black evening gown.

WILL RESCUE HAITI

Commendable Policy Pursued by Administration.

Treaty Proposed Will End the Menace to the Monroe Doctrine Which the Island Has Been for So Long a Time.

This country is pursuing a commendable policy toward the republic of Haiti that has long been a republic in name only. It is proposing to make that little island state a prize exhibit of the beneficence of American rule and American management of the finances of a people that have little genius for government and no head for affairs. The forces maintained in the island will be made sufficient to repel any attack and, in fact, to discourage efforts of this kind.

The newly elected president of the republic, D'Artiguesnavem, is believed to be in sympathy with the ideals of the United States. He could not remain president a day without the support of this country, as he would be promptly displaced and beheaded by the Robo element.

The proposed Haitian treaty, which when drafted will provide ample latitude for the United States to insure the peace and the prosperity of the republic, cannot be made effective until ratified by the senate. The Haitian situation is fraught with annoyance and will be so for some time to come. But this country is accustomed to doing the drudgery work for the backward republics and it will perform for this one the kind of service it performed for Cuba and for San Domingo. It will remake Haiti and give to the people the facts of constitutional government and save the island from being a further menace to the Monroe doctrine through its disregarded liabilities to foreign creditors.

Business Good in "Hard Times."

"What peculiar kink of a man's mind it is that causes him to complain of hard times when he is doing as well as he ever did, I don't know, but it's a fact that out in the West many persons are talking hard times who are enjoying fine business," declared former Representative Harry L. Maynard of Norfolk, Va. Mr. Maynard is just back from a trip that took him to the Pacific coast, where he spent several weeks.

"Yes, some men in that country are talking hard times while doing the best business of their lives," continued Mr. Maynard. "I don't understand it. When you pin them down, they admit that their business is just as good as it was two or three years ago, yet they appear to think it's their duty to complain."

Work for Next Congress.

The president has admitted to those who have discussed the matter with him that much money will have to be provided by the next congress for extraordinary expenses, and especially for the national defense. But this money, he believes, should be raised by the issuance of short term notes or short term bonds. Such an issue the president believes would be very popular throughout the country.

It is also the intention of the administration to ask that the war taxes now in vogue, which automatically expire in December, be renewed for another year. It is possible that revisions will be made in the existing taxable articles, but this has not yet been determined.

Nation Awake to Facts.

We have seen the nature and the power of monopoly exhibited. We know that it is more apt to control government than to be controlled by it; for we have seen it control government, dictate legislation and dominate executives and courts. We feel that our people are safe only in the fields of free individual endeavor where American genius and initiative are not folded by a few men as in recent years, but made rich by the activities of a multitude, as in days now almost forgotten. We will not consent that an ungovernable giant should be reared to full stature in the very household of the government itself.

Old Question Not Revived.

However, those large Russian orders for American steel rails show no tendency to bring up the old tariff question as to why an American steel rail should sell for less money in Europe than in this country—a question by the way that was extremely annoying to the high protectionists.

Political Change Unlikely.

A practical nation is not likely to reject a team full of the spirit of public service, and substitute, in the midst of great tasks, either a party upon which a deep demoralization has fallen or a party which has not grown to the stature that would warrant its assuming the responsible burdens of state.

Kentucky Democrats Elated.

"Since the state primaries, in which former Representative Stanley was nominated by the Democrats, the Republicans are not so confident," said H. A. Devlin of Louisville at Washington. "The Republicans were counting on winning the governorship this year because of the supposed disaffection among the Democrats over the state-wide prohibition issue, but the large vote given Stanley certainly seems to indicate that the Democrats are pretty much of one mind on the liquor question."

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Walnuts as food are composed as follows: Black walnuts, refuse 3.1 per cent, water 6 per cent, protein 1.2 per cent, fat 14.6 per cent, carbohydrates 3.0 per cent and ash 0.8 per cent.

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